

Uganda is widely acclaimed as an African success on account of achievements in macro-economic reforms, poverty reduction and political stability, following years of civil war, economic decline and worsening poverty. Progress on these fronts was accompanied by a succession of governance reforms, ranging from an ambitious programme of civil service restructuring, the creation of a series of semi-autonomous public agencies, reforms in public expenditure management, decentralisation, innovations in service delivery, and legal and institutional measures to combat corruption. These achievements are attributed to the personal commitment of President Yoweri Museveni and a dedicated term of cadre of technocrats.

As we celebrate Heroes Day it is also important to look at the achievements of our struggle in the last 32 years so that we increase our resolve to transform our country.

The aims of the Vision 2040 are pursued through 5-year National Development Plans (NDPs). The second NDP (2015/16-2019/20) is focused on consolidating wealth creation, employment and all-encompassing growth so as to attain middle income position by 2020. The NDPII has prioritised agriculture, tourism, minerals, oil and gas, infrastructure development, and, human capital development¹

Good governance, democracy and security

Government has ensured peace and stability and peace and supported citizens to freely participate in governance through elections. The army and police have been supported through training and facilitation to stamp out rebellions.²

Agriculture

¹. National Planning Authority (1st July 2016) Review Report on Uganda's Readiness for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Kampala: National Planning Authority. Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10689Ugandapercent20Reviewpercent20Report_CDs1.pdf Accessed 19 May 2018

About 80 per cent of the households are engaged in agriculture and in 2016/17 agriculture contributed 24.9 to the GDP and 72.9 of export earnings³.

Government has supported farmers to get farm inputs, especially livestock, seeds, breeding and planting materials in addition to roads, agricultural machinery and water for production. Government has also built access roads, markets and rehabilitated irrigation projects, recruited extension workers and controlled animal diseases and crop pests.⁴

Water Supply and Sanitation

In 2017 the percentage of people within 1000 m of an improved water source was registered at 70 per cent in rural areas and 71 per cent in urban areas. The percentage of people who have access to improved sanitation in 2017 was 80 per cent for rural areas and 86 per cent for urban areas.⁵

Infrastructure

Tarmac roads have increased from 3,317km in 2011/12 to 4,919km. Road Equipment units have been distributed to all districts including the Mubende, Kakumiro, Hoima road that is currently under construction. Government is also planning to build more tarmac roads, and bridges. The number of ferry crossings has increased from two to nine. In addition Government is building ferries and building the ports at Port Bell, Bukasa and Jinja.

Government is planning to build a Standard Gauge Rail to link Uganda to Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan. The expansion of Entebbe International Airport is in progress and rehabilitation of upcountry airfields is also ongoing including the Bulisa oil airport. Plans are in

³ .Republic of Uganda. MAAIF Official 2018 Manifesto Week Statement,16 May 2018,Press Release.

⁴ State of the nation Address 2017; Budget Speech 2017-18

⁵ Government of Uganda, Ministry of Water and Environment, Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2017

advanced stages to start national airlines company later this year (December 2018).

Energy

The Energy and Mineral Development Sector has attained great progress in the realization of National Development Objectives as directed by the National Development Plan the NRM manifesto, 2016–2021. Several electricity generation projects are being implemented. Construction of transmission lines and the substation project is also in progress. Government is also looking at other sources of energy including wind power and geothermal energy, and nuclear energy.⁶ Electricity coverage has increased to 20.4 per cent of households in 2016 to 11 per cent in 2011. Construction works at the Karuma (600MW), and Isimba (183MW) hydropower projects are almost completed. Out of 122 districts, 113 have been connected to the electricity grid.⁷

Employment

Government set up a five-year sh265b Youth Livelihood Programme to give startup capital for the youth to generate jobs. In 2015/16 80286 youths were given technical and financial assistance and they implemented 6,181 projects. In addition Government generated 2.5 million jobs.⁸ In addition government continue to attract investors through providing basic incentives and in so doing generate employment for our people.

Growth and Development

⁶ . Republic of Uganda. Annual Manifesto Week: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. May 17, 2017. Press Release

⁷ NRM Manifesto 2016-2021; Budget Speech 2017-2018.

⁸ NRM Manifesto 2016-2021; Report of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, Financial Year 2016/17.

The country has attained sustained economic progress of 6 per cent per year. Revenue collection increased from sh5b in 1986 to sh9.7 trillion in 2014/15.⁹

Zero tolerance to corruption

Government has introduced institutions policies to fight corruption and promote social justice in all sectors and institutions. For example the IGG, DPP, the Anti Corruption Court, equipping police to be able to do forensic investigation plus making tough laws that combat corruption.

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Minerals

Government has commenced on activities to produce and sell oil and gas and in the near future we shall be earning extra USD 2.5 billion to our national coffers. Various mineral reserves have been identified across the country and steps have been taken to exploit them.¹¹

Quality of the population

Government has focused on: improving household incomes; increasing employment opportunities, expanding infrastructure, better nutrition and food security, improved accessibility to social services, security and sustainable environmental use. Through the sacrifice of Ugandans whom we are celebrating today many achievements have been attained¹². The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has reduced from 56 in 1992 percent to 19.7 percent in 2013. Life expectancy has risen from 48.1 years in 1991 to 63.3 years in 2014.

⁹ NRM Manifesto 2016-2021

¹⁰ NRM Manifesto 2016-2021

¹¹. Republic of Uganda. Annual Manifesto Week: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. May 17, 2017. Press Release

¹². Republic of Uganda. May 17, 2017. Press Release, Ibid.

Education

Enrolment rose from 477,123 in FY 2015/16 to 563,913 in the pre-primary schools. In primary schools enrolment increased from 8,264,317 in FY 2015/16 to 8,655, in FY 2016/17. The literacy rate increased from 54 percent in 1991 to 72.2 percent in 2014.¹³ In secondary schools enrolment rose from 1,284,008 in FY 2015/6 to 1,457,277 in FY 2016/17. Government has sustained the expansion of infrastructure and the distribution of instructional materials.

Many Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Education (BTVET) were rehabilitated, or built, and also equipped in FY 2016/17, resulting in increased.

In Universities the total graduates in the academic year FY 2016/17 were about 17,895. In higher education 3,799 students were given loans.

Government has also encouraged and supported the sector participation in delivering post secondary education.¹⁴ The curriculum for lower secondary schools is being revised on imparting practical skills.

Information and communication technology

Government has supported the ICT which sector which contributes over 8 per cent to the economy and provides employment opportunities, improved service delivery, tax revenue, and lowering of cost of internet.¹⁵

Health

¹³ . Ministry of Education & Sports . (2017) The Education and Sports Sector Annual Performance Report Financial Year 2016/17 .Education Planning and Policy Analysis Department. Embassy House, Kampala . ; Ministry of Education & Sports . (2017) The Education and Sports Sector Annual Performance Report Financial Year 2016/17 .Education Planning and Policy Analysis Department. Embassy House, Kampala

¹⁴ Ministry of Education & Sports . (2017) ,Ibid.

¹⁵ **Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Executive Summary ICT &NG Sector Achievements FY2016/17**

Infant mortality reduced from 54 to 43 per 1000 live births; the under-five child mortality reduced from 90 to 64 per 1000 live births. Maternal mortality has reduced from 438 to 336 per 100,000 births. Deliveries in health facilities have risen from 57 per cent to 73 per cent. Mother to Child HIV Transmission has dropped from 22,000 in 2012 to 3,400 in 2016. Immunization for children against the five immunisable diseases stands at 97 per cent. Significant achievements have been made in health infrastructure across the country where referral and general hospitals have been improved or built.

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Finally, as we gather to celebrate the 9th June Heroes Day, it is very imperative for Ugandans to reflect strongly about the amount of sacrifice some Ugandans made to make this great country rise and shine again. This year's Heroes Day celebrations will take place on 9th June 2018 at Our Lady of Fatuma Catholic Parish Birembo Primary School Grounds, Birembo Sub county, Kakumiro District and our theme is:
“Remembering our heroes who kept the faith and fought the fight; the duty to enrich their gains is ours”

¹⁶ The Republic of Uganda Ministry of Health, Annual Health Sector Performance Report for Financial Year 2015/16